

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

Sixty-second Legislature

Second Regular Session - 2014

IN THE SENATE

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 105

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) is administered by the states on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the states are subject to the rules promulgated by the United States Department of Agriculture and Congress; and

WHEREAS, the health and welfare of the citizens of Idaho can be affected by their consumption of food items purchased with SNAP benefits; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive healthy Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) for Idaho citizens would include, and should emphasize, consumption of healthy Idaho grown and produced products; and

WHEREAS, individuals who participate in healthy eating choices have less chance of developing chronic diseases and therefore, are able to be more productive employees, citizens and more involved in their families' lives; and

WHEREAS, our children's futures and consequently the future of our nation are directly impacted by the food choices that are made for our children; and

WHEREAS, a healthy diet can consist of all food items, provided there is appropriate education and emphasis given to healthier food options to include proteins, grains, dairy and fruits and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers have a right to expect that, whenever possible, decisions regarding the use of their tax dollars will be made at the state and local level; and

WHEREAS, if there is more state and local authority over foods authorized to be purchased with SNAP funds, Idaho can potentially improve the health of SNAP recipients, promote Idaho grown agricultural products and reduce the states' expenses for health care costs; and

WHEREAS, citizens may benefit from education to enable them to make healthier and more cost-effective decisions about purchasing food and having local control over foods authorized to be purchased with SNAP funds would give state-based producers an opportunity to educate citizens about the benefits of consuming their products.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of

1 Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature calls upon the
2 President of the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture and Congress
3 to give Idaho the flexibility to have control over foods authorized for pur-
4 chase with Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and
5 to encourage healthy eating and lifestyle choices.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Idaho should be given the flexibility to
7 determine the best methods of helping our citizens create a comprehensive
8 state-based approach to promote physical activity, nutritional food selec-
9 tions, including a focus on Idaho grown agricultural products, and healthy
10 lifestyle choices.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she
12 is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to
13 the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the
14 Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, to the congressional
15 delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United
16 States, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and
17 the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.